

Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2685

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY SANA

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY SUMMARY-SAUDI EDITORIAL COMMENT

SUMMARY: WHILE SAUDI HEADLINES DURING THE PAST WEEK (OCTOBER 13-20) CONCENTRATED ON THE NEW SAUDI CABINET AND PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT TO ENGLAND, EDITORIAL COLUMNS COVERED A NUMBER OF US-RELATED THEMES: SADAT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, US ARMS COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL, OPEC, U.S. POLICY OF DETENTE, AND UN COMMISSION RESOLUTION ON ZIONISM. END SUMMARY.

1. SADAT'S VISIT. JASIR AL-JASIR IN OCTOBER 20 AL-RIYADH DAILY BELIEVES "THERE IS COMPLETE AGREEMENT AMONG POLITICAL OBSERVERS THAT SADAT'S VISIT SIGNALS THE START OF A NEW PHASE THAT WILL HAVE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS
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OF MORE SIGNIFICANCE THAN FORD'S PREVIOUS MEETING

WITH SADAT IN SALZBURG".

HASHIM AL HASHIM IN IQRA'A WEEKLY OF OCTOBER 16
SCHOED "NEW PHASE" ANGEL INTERPRETING ASAD'S VISIT
TO MOSCOW AND SADAT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS PART OF
SOVIET AND AMERICAN PLANS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ARAB
DISUNITY AND "INTERFERE DIRECTLY" IN THE AREA.

2. US ARMS COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL. AZIZ DIA IN
OCTOBER 16 IQRA'A WEEKLY, AFTER NOTING THAT
THE PRICE OF THE SECOND STAGE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT IS
"THOUSANDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, TOGETHER WITH
PERSHING MISSILES" TO ISRAEL, WHICH ENCOURAGES
GENERAL ARAB DISPAIR OF EVER BEING ABLE TO COUNTER
ZIONIST INFLUENCE IN THE U.S., APPLAUDS RECENT INTERNATIONAL
HERALD TRIBUNE ARTICLES BY DAVID BINDER/THE
INFLUENCE OF THE ZIONIST U.S. LOBBY AS "INDICATORS
OF A NEW AMERICAN REALIZATION OF THE DANGER OF
UNLIMITED SUPPORT TO ISRAEL."

CITING CONGRESSIIIONAL CONCERN OVER IMPLEMENTING
THE SINAI ACCOARD, AN UNSIGNED COMMENTARY IN
OCTOBER 17 YAMAMA WEEKLY BELIEVES THAT "THERE IS A
CLEAR FEELING IN AMERICAN CIRCLES THAT KISSINGER
HAS SURPASSED THE LIMITS OF PRUDENCE IN HIS EFFORTS
TO EXTRACT AGREEMENT FROM THE ISRAELIS". AUTHOR CONCLUDES
WITH QUESTION, "IF ISRAEL HAS INSISTED ON BILLIONS OF
DOLLARS WORTH OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC HELP FOR AN ACCORD
THAT CAUSED NO REAL CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF POWER, WHAT
WILL IT ASK IN EXCHANGE FOR RETURNING ALL THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES?" YOUSEL DAMANHOURI IN OCTOBER 19 UKAZ DAILY
EXPRESSED SIMILAR FEARS.

3. OPEC. YOUSEF DAMANHOURI IN OCTOBER 20 UKAZ DAILY
REMINDS READERS THAT THE INDUSTRAIL NATIONS, LED BY THE
U.S., BLAMED ALL THE ARAB OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES FOR THE
OIL PRICE RAISES, DISREGARDING "OTHER MEMBERS OF OPEC
(I.E. IRAN) WHO WERE DEMANDING, AND CONTINUE TO DEMAND,
HUGE PRICE INCREASES." WITH NO RECOGNITION OF THE
MODERATING ROLE OF SAUDI ARABIA.

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IN OCTOBER 21 AL-BILAD "AL-MURAQIB" (THE OBSERVER)
COMMENTS THAT THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPEC
DEVELOPMENT FUND TO AID COUNTRIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED
BY RISING OIL PRICES SHOULD HELP "CONTRIBUTE
TOWARD A GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM BASED ON STABILITY,
CONTINUED EXPANSION, AND THE NONCONFINEMENT OF WEALTH
INSIDE ONE GROUP OF COUNTRIES."

4. DETENTE, ADNAN KAMEL SALAH IN OCTOBER 19 AL-JAZIIRA DAILY CLAIMS THAT "KISSINGER'S POLICY OF DETENTE" HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL ONLY TO THE COMMUNISTS, RESULTING IN THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, FORMOSA'S DISMISSAL FROM THE UN, COMMUNIST CHINESE EXPANSION, THE LEGALIZATION OF SOVIET OCCUPATION OF EAST EUROPE, AND BILLIONS OF AMERICAN DOLLARS AND LARGE WHEAT COMMITMENTS TO THE SOVIET UNION "WHILE HALF THE WORLD SUFFERS FROM FAMINE." IN ADDITION, "KISSINGER'S EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST "DID NOT EXCEED FOUR KILOMETERS AND DEALT WITH NO MAJOR PROBLEMS IN RETURN FOR HUGE PROMISES TO ISRAEL" WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE SOVIET RE-ENTRY INTO THE AREA.

5. UN COMMITTEE ACTION ON ZIONISM. US ABHORRENCE OF COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TAGGING OF ZIONISM AS RACIALLY DISCRIMINATING WAS SEEN BY EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF NADWAH DAILY ON OCTOBER 19 AS "INCOMPREHENSIBLE" AND PROVIDING CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT "AMERICA HAS FINALLY MADE ITSELF THE DEFENDER OF ZIONISM AND THE PROTECTOR OF ITS SINS AND EVILS." AMERICAN CONTINUES TO FORTIFY THE ZIONIST EDIFICE IN PALESTINE WITH ALL MODERN MEANS OF DESTRUCTION...WHILE STILL MAINTAINING IT SEEKS PEACE WITH JUSTICE." SABBAGH

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